

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 17, 2010. Claim 1 is amended and is supported, for example, in the specification at page 17, lines 3-9 and in Fig. 1. Claim 2 is amended editorially. Claim 24 is new and is supported, for example, in the specification on page 17, lines 3-9 and in Fig. 1. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-24 are pending.

Examiner Interview:

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Bibbins for conducting a telephone interview with Applicants' representative, Mr. Amol Kavathekar, on February 16, 2011. In the interview, the claim 1 was discussed with respect to Hiroki (US Patent No. 5,703,841) and Adachi (US Publication No. 2002/0154585). The written description rejection of claim 2 was also discussed. Potential amendments to claim 1 were also discussed.

§112, 1st Paragraph Rejections:

Claim 2 is rejected as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 2 is amended and no longer contains the language identified in the rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

§103 Rejections:

Claims 1, 2, 12 and 15 are rejected as being unpatentable over Hiroki (US Patent No. 5,703,841) in view of Adachi (US Publication No. 2002/0154585). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to an information recording medium that requires, among other features, a read end data area provided between the outer boundary for recording additional user information and an inner boundary of the outer power calibration area. The read end data area includes arbitrary data for differentiating between the outer boundary for recording additional user information and the inner boundary of the outer power calibration area.

The combination of Hiroki and Adachi does not teach or suggest these features. The rejection interprets areas c-f in Fig. 11 of Hiroki as the data recordable area of claim 1. Particularly, the rejection interprets the outer boundary of the data zone (d) and the outer test zone (f) as the outer boundary for recording additional user information and the outer power calibration area, respectively, of claim 1. Hiroki teaches an outer control zone (e) provided between the data zone (d) and the outer test zone (f) (interpreted as the outer power calibration area of claim 1).

However, the outer control zone (e) cannot be interpreted as the read end data area of claim 1. Hiroki teaches that the outer control zone (e) includes information regarding a disc including: servo information, a limit value of reproducing power below which information is not destroyed, erase conditions, etc. (see column 13, lines 7-14 of Hiroki). Hiroki does not teach or suggest that the outer control zone (e) includes arbitrary data. Thus, Hiroki does not teach or suggest a read end data area that includes arbitrary data for differentiating between the outer boundary for recording additional user information and the inner boundary of the outer power calibration area, as required by claim 1.

Adachi is provided for teaching address information of a point defining an outer boundary for recording additional user information in the data recordable area is in the recording management area and does not overcome these deficiencies of Hiroki.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is not suggested by the combination of Hiroki and Adachi and should be allowed. Claims 2, 12 and 15 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

Claims 4, 8, 9 and 23 are rejected as being unpatentable over Hiroki in view of Adachi and further in view of Ito (US Patent No. 7,184,377). This rejection is traversed. Claims 4, 8, 9 and 23 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 6 is rejected as being unpatentable over Hiroki in view of Adachi in view of Ito and further in view of Lee (US Publication No. 2008/0013425). This rejection is

traversed. Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 7 is rejected as being unpatentable over Hiroki in view of Adachi in view of Ito and further in view of *DVD+R 4.7 Gbytes Basic Format Specifications version 1.2* (“NPD”). This rejection is traversed. Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected as being unpatentable over Hiroki in view of Adachi and further in view of NPD. This rejection is traversed. Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claims 13, 14, 16 and 17 are rejected as being unpatentable over Hiroki in view of Adachi and further in view of Morozumi (US Publication No. 2003/0185120). This rejection is traversed. Claims 13, 14, 16 and 17 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

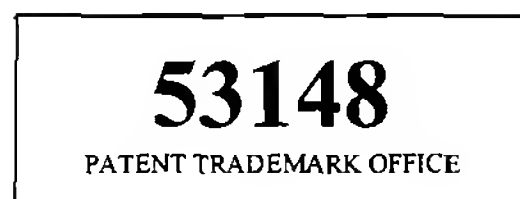
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In Response to the Office Action dated September 17, 2010

Conclusion:

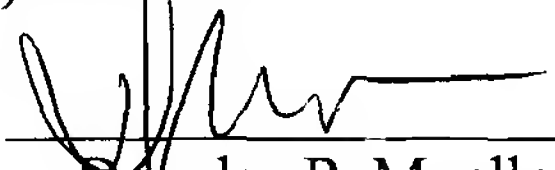
Applicants respectfully assert that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: March 15, 2011

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